

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: KIM CHI-HA TRIAL--ELEVENTH SESSION

REF: SEOUL 9884

1. ELEVENTH SESSION KIM CHI-HA TRIAL TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 23 WITH COURT HEARING DEFENSE SUMMARY AND KIM'S PERSONAL STATEMENT. DEFENSE SUMMARY WAS LENGTHY BUT CONCENTRATED ON FOLLOWING THEMES: (A) THAT CHARGES AGAINST KIM WERE INSPIRED BY MOTIVES OF POLITICAL RETALIATION ON PART OF ROKG RATHER THAN BELIEF THAT KIM WAS REALLY A COMMUNIST; (B) THAT WITNESSES PRODUCED BY ROKG WERE OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY; (C) THAT EVIDENCE AGAINST KIM LARGELY FROM HIS PERSONAL NOTES WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN AND WAS THUS IRRELEVANT AS PROOF THAT HE AGITATED ON BEHALF OF COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY; (D) THAT KIM IS A CONVINCED CATHOLIC AND THAT CATHOLICISM AND COMMUNISM ARE INCOMPATIBLE. THE DEFENSE CALLED THE COURT'S ATTENTION TO THE SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION HAS BESTOWED ON THE POET.

2. KIM CHI-HA MADE THREE HOUR FINAL STATEMENT. HE DENIED THAT HE WAS A COMMUNIST OR MARXIST-LENINIST. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS SPOKESMAN OF KOREAN YOUTH SEARCHING FOR A NEW IDEOLOGY FOR THE NATION WHICH WOULD COMBINE ELEMENTS OF
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CHRISTIANITY, DEMOCRACY AND TRADITIONAL KOREAN VALUES. HE SAID KOREA WAS PART OF THIRD WORLD AND THAT HIS IDEOLOGY HAD TRACES OF THOUGHT FROM SUCH GREAT THIRD WORLD LEADERS AS NASSER, NKRUMAH AND MAHATMA GANDHI. HE BELIEVED KOREA HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BE A GREAT DEMOCRACY IF THE CURRENT "MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" COULD BE ELIMINATED. HE SAID THAT STRONG

CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CURRENTS IN THE COUNTRY WERE READY TO BE HARNESSSED IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY AND THAT SUCH A MOVEMENT COULD BE LED BY KIM TAE-CHUNG.

3. KIM'S PERORATION WAS DRAMATIC AND MOVING. HE SAID THAT HE REALIZED THAT HIS BELIEFS MEANT PRISON BUT HE ACCEPTED THIS AS GOD'S WILL. HE PREDICTED THE INEVITABLE DEMISE OF THE PARK REGIME. HE CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ASKED ALL TO JOIN HIM IN PRAYER FOR THE PRISONERS AND FOR MR. PARK CHUNG-HUI. MANY IN THE COURTROOM WEPT AS HE CONCLUDED.

4. THE COURT SET SENTENCING FOR DECEMBER 31.
SNEIDER

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